

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. D-698

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Stable at Shoal Creek

and/or common

2. Location

street & number South side of Roselin Avenue ___ not for publication

city, town Cambridge ___ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Dorchester

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: storage

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Dorchester County Historical Society

street & number P.O. Box 361 telephone no.:

city, town Cambridge, Maryland state and zip code 21613

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Courthouse liber

street & number folio

city, town Cambridge state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

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Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Shoal Creek Stable is located on the south side of Roselin Avenue in Cambridge, approximately $4\frac{1}{2}$ blocks east of U. S. Route 50 and $\frac{1}{2}$ block west of Woods Road. Originally associated with a historic farm and house known as Shoal Creek (D-111), the stable is now located in the rear yard of a 20th century house in a suburban setting. The Shoal Creek house was demolished some years ago for construction of a sewage treatment plant, and plans are now underway to move this stable approximately two blocks to the grounds of the Dorchester County Historical Society.

The Shoal Creek Stable is a one story rectangular brick building oriented on an east-west axis, measuring 30 feet 3 inches long and 22 feet 8 inches wide. The east gable forms the principal facade of the building and is laid in Flemish bond; the west gable and the north and south facades are laid in common bond. The joint work is particularly well crafted on the principal gable facade, consisting of a boxed joint in white lime mortar.

A single door is centered on each gable end at ground level; smaller doors above allow access to the loft. There are three rectangular window openings symmetrically spaced on the north and south facade walls. The gable doors originally had splayed jack arch lintels but these have failed and fallen. All other openings are plain with the lintels left unarticulated. Queen closers may be found at the corners of the building, flanking the principal east door and on one jamb of most other openings.

Of particular interest on the exterior is the framing for an original plastered cove cornice on the north and south facades. While the plaster is now gone, the concave ends of the loft joists are clearly visible and one section of a beaded frieze board survives immediately below the cove on the north facade. The roof was originally covered with wood shingles but is now covered with corrugated sheets of metal roofing. The gable eaves were once trimmed with tapered rakeboards that terminated in a simple curve at the base. Only fragments of one rakeboard survive but some ghosting is also evident in the brickwork.

Little survives of the early door and window frames. The original wood lintels and sills survive for all six windows and are visible from the inside of the building, but all frames are gone except for paint ghosts. The gable end doors retain early but not original frames. These are constructed with pegged mortis-and-tenon joints but of circular sawn material, suggesting they are replacements dating to the mid-19th century or later. Pintel holes and one piece of hardware survive on the first floor door frames; a single reused wrought iron H-L hinge remains on the east door frame of the loft.

The interior of the stable was organized with a center aisle running longitudinally between the east and west gable doors. Based on surviving

See Continuation Sheet No. 1

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Historic Context:

Eastern Shore; Rural Agrarian Intensification, 1680-1815
Agriculture; Architecture

Cross Reference:

Agricultural Buildings; Stable
Details: Cove Cornice
Eave Construction

The Shoal Creek Stable is an exceptionally well preserved example of a brick stable building associated with an 18th century house and farm that has now disappeared. While stables were a standard part of any substantial farm complex in the 18th and 19th centuries, few were constructed of brick and only a few have been identified and recorded in Maryland. The Flemish bond gable facade with boxed joints and the plaster cove cornices are clear evidence that this was an unusually refined example of a common, utilitarian building type. A somewhat larger but less refined example was recorded prior to demolition at Fancy Farm (K-236), near Chestertown, in recent years, and a two story, brick barn and stable of circa 1840 survives at Oxon Hill Farm in Prince George's County.

The Shoal Creek Stable is particularly helpful due to the surviving evidence of the plan and flooring system, and less clear evidence of the original mangers and fittings.

evidence, this center aisle was dirt, and was flanked by raised wooden stall flooring on either side. This flooring was supported on floor joists that ran east-west and were joined to a girt or sill at the mid-point of each side of the building. Sockets in the gable walls provide clear evidence of the joists and suggest that the floors sloped down slightly toward the center aisle. A large socket at the mid-point of the north and south walls provides the primary evidence of the transverse sills. These sills only extended to the center aisle, where they apparently were mortised into heavy vertical posts that were carried up and mortised into short, heavy timbers spiked into the underside of the ceiling joists. Further evidence of the plan was found by archeological testing along the sides of the aisle, revealing brick footings just below the present surface. These footings are 17½ inches wide and may have served as both a footing for the aisle joists and as a form of guttering, though no trough effect was found and exit openings were not evident in the gable walls. Only portions of this footing survive, and in some places have been used as the base for later concrete footings. Several rusted metal fittings also survive, imbedded in the footing, but their age and purpose are not clear, though presumably they are not original.

The interior walls and exposed joist ceiling are whitewashed. Ghosts of several posts are evident on the sides of ceiling joists, but no direct evidence of stall partitions, feed boxes or similar features could be discerned. There are numerous wood blocks set into the brickwork on the facade walls, and these offer limited evidence of interior fittings. These blocks are aligned in two horizontal bands. The upper one consists of 2½ x 4½ inch blocks that mimic headers and are in line with the wood lintels over the stable windows. These are ideally suited to serve as nailing blocks for a narrow horizontal rail -- or perhaps the top rail of a feed manger or a harness rail. One section of rail survives at the east end of the north wall. The purpose and age of this rail is not clear. It is secured in place with large wood dowels and several nails, both mature machine cut and wire. This might be considered an original feature with later nails, except that red paint is visible on the window frame behind the rail. Also, the only evidence of the function of the rail are pairs of wire nails used for hanging tack or, more likely, as a tool rack after the building was abandoned as a stable. Of the blocks that remain exposed, most have one or more vacant nail holes but no evidence of dowels.

The second set of nailing blocks are worked into two brick courses level with the bottom of the window openings. These blocks measure 2½ by 8½ inches and serve in place of stretcher bricks. They also bear vacant nail holes and may be associated with hay mangers, feed boxes and/or stall partitions.

Perhaps the most intriguing evidence of mangers is the evidence that the loft floor did not extend all the way to eaves, but stopped one foot nine inches from the interior face of each facade wall. This pattern was noted because it coincided with wear patterns in the whitewashed ceiling joists, suggesting that hay was forked down from the loft to mangers on the side walls. It is also worth noting that the interior face of the walls shows a subtle but distinct pattern of wear up to about 4½ feet above the existing dirt floor.

The loft flooring has been partially removed. The surviving flooring consists of one-inch thick, random width machine sawn boards secured with wrought nails. There is no visible evidence of any ladder for interior access to the loft.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

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Description (continued)

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The roof is constructed of hewn and pit sawn common rafters joined at the ridge with pegged mortis-and-tenon joints and reinforced with one set of collars half-dovetailed to the rafters and secured with wood pins and wrought nails. The rafters rest on a heavy rectangular-section false plate. Rather than the common mitred and nailed joint, however, the rafter feet are joined to the plate with a birdmouth joint and nailed.

A puzzling feature of the loft is the pair of extra rafters at the center of the building. This rafter pair is virtually identical to the others but lacks a collar beam and is placed between two rafter pairs on the standard two-foot center rafter system. Clearly, its function is not related to the roof and might be interpreted as evidence of a loft partition or a hoist. However, there are no nail holes from missing partition boards, and the only clue to function are two dovetail notches in each rafter, with remnants of riven pieces jambed into the notches but not nailed. These riven, strut-like pieces would have projected down at an angle to meet the floor, but there is not enough evidence to explain their purpose.